A STANDARD OIL TRUST TRICK

The House Committee on manufactures have taken up the investigation of the Standard Oil Trust. Some of their nefarious plans should be laid bare. Petroleum oil is a thing that interests every family in the country. They depend upon kerosene to furnish light. Here is one of the means used by this iniquitous and grasping monopoly for diminishing the production of oil. The simple relation of some testimony will suffice: Mr. Webster, an oil well contractor and a member of the Oil Well Drillers' Union, a secret society, said: Before he had joined the union he had heard that the Oil Producers' Association and the Standard Company wanted to diminish the production of oil, and that the companies had each set aside a million barrels of oil for the benefit of the drillers out of work. The Drillers' Union had received money from the Producers' Associations, and he had received $75 as his share, without having worked for it. There was a contract between the oil drillers and the Producers' Associations entered into last December, to the effect that the Producers' Association should pay the Well Drillers' Union the profits on 1,000,000 barrels of oil, and the residue on another million barrels that may remain after paying the other classes injured by the shut-down movement

The producers should advance upon the prospective profits $1 per day to each member of the Well Drillers' Union for each day that each member may be out of work during the continuance of the agreement, and a further allowance is to be made the drillers for loss and interest on their outfits. All persons interested should devote their time to the stopping of the drill during the time of the agreement, and shall report to a designated officer weekly. The agreement was to continue in force until Sept. 8, 1888, but may be terminated by ten days' notice from the Producers' Association. Previous to the expiration of the contract the parties to it are to meet and fix up a scale of prices on equitable terms to both parties. Members of the Drillers' Union shall have preference in contracts whenever work is resumed.

Mr. Webster said that there were cases in which derricks were blown up, apparently to prevent the digging of new wells by persons not members of the union. These cases had occurred within the past few weeks, most of them near Bradford, Pa. The object of the shut-down was to use up the surplus, as oil had become very low in price. Witness understood that the shut-down was intended to lessen the surplus of oil, so that the oil gamblers should not have so great a stock to gamble upon, and force prices up and down, and make prices so uncertain that nobody would know what to count on. The number of wells being drilled had constantly diminished during the past three years. J. N. Bennett, of Bradford, Pa., a driller, was next examined. His testimony was similar to that of Webster.—*Farm, Field and Stockman.*

CORN AS FOOD FOR HOGS.

Some one has lately said, perhaps to set people to thinking, that a pig might be fed all the corn it would eat until it starved itself to death. We do not credit this statement. Young pigs corn fed are apt to become runts from the injury to their digestive organs from eating such hearty food. Such pigs might even die from dys pepsia, as many human beings annually do, yet it would be an abuse of terms to say that they had starved to death. The idea meant to be inculcated is a true one, that carbonaceous food alone will not long sustain life. Connected with this is a mistaken notion that corn is entirely carbonaceous, or nearly so, and that it falls under the same inhibition as those foods, like sugar, butter and fats, which are nearly pure carbon. English physicians once fed two dogs with nothing but sugar. At first they fattened rapidly, then weakened, sickened and died, simply because sugar did not contain the elements of food needed to sustain life.

Corn is not liable to this objection. It has 1 13-100 per cent. of phosphate of lime, against 1 87-100 per cent. in whole wheat. In nitrogenous matter the two grains are exactly alike, each having 1 80-100 per cent. Wheat bran and middlings are much richer in both phosphate of lime and nitrogen than either whole wheat or corn. The fair presumption, therefore, is that whole corn is a better food for giving strength and making muscle than is the inside of the wheat grain, from which our fine bread is made. People might well live on white bread alone, until, like the dogs in the English experiment, they died from lack of the necessary material in their blood to repair the natural waste from their bodies. But in large sections of the country fat pork and hominy are the staple articles of diet. On these. men work hard and live to a good old age.

If corn be, as we believe it is, an unsuitable food for young growing pigs, the question occurs, why they cannot eat it as will as working men and women. This suggests as one reason, perhaps, that the hog is not a working animal, and secondly, like most people who are naturally lazy, he is afflicted with poor digestive organs. Possibly people may be obliged to revise preconceived ideas on this subject. It is men, women and children who are most inclined to be what is called "piggish." As for piggy himself, he is rather apt to be dainty in his appetite. He may eat a good deal more than he can digest, but that is a failing far too common among those who count themselves his superiors.

The chief objections to corn meal as food for pigs are its richness, and secondly its liability to compact in the stomach, so that the saliva and other solvents cannot readily work on it. The food after mastication lies in a heavy mass that only the strongest stomachs can resolve. The cow and sheep remasticate this food, mix more saliva with it, and thus escape much injury. But an over-feeding of corn will put either sheep or cows "off their feed" quicker than almost anything else. The pig has no such recourse. Having his stomach filled with corn he founders, just as a horse would do under like circumstances.

Pigs, and in fact all stock, need to become used to eating corn, feeding it in small amounts at first and mixed with other food. It is not harder to digest than fine wheat flour would be, nor is it so rich and fatty as cotton-seed meal. Digestion improves by severely exercising the digestive organs, provided they are not overtaxed. By the time a pig has made its growth it should be able to digest all the corn it will eat, if its stomach has never been weakened by overfeeding. By that time, too, all pigs not reserved for breeding ought to be ready to die. For a matured hog corn in some form is the cheapest and best food to finish the fattening. The animal may not grow much in size, but it will in weight. Its flesh will be firmer by the displacement of the water it contained in its immature state. Possibly other grains will make a larger proportion of lean meat. Oats and peas certainly will, but corn-fattened pork has a good reputation, and will always command the highest price in any market.—*American Cultivator.*

A WHOPPER.

Here is a story from the Albina (Or.) *Courier*, beside which all accounts of big steers, pumpkins, etc., at county fairs pale into insignificance. The story appears under the head "A Big Spud," and reads as follows:

"There is a big potato on exhibition down at the Continental hotel bar that is probably the most immense vegetable ever grown in this country or any other. It was raised by A. Lapelle, ten miles north of this city, and measures eleven feet in length, three and one-half feet in diameter and nine and one-half feet in circumference, and when weighed on a pair of hay scales was found to tip the beam at 838 pounds.

When Mr. Lapelle was digging his potatoes last fall and came across this monster he thought at first he had struck a root of the giant yamahetus, a tree of the eucalyptus order, now extinct. Further investigation, however, proved it to be a potato. It took three men and a span of horses a day and a half to dig this potato out of the ground. It was then swung upon a big logging truck and brought to town. Though it may seem curious, this potato is as fine grained as its smaller brethren, and when sliced up and fried cannot be distinguished from an ordinary potato of good quality. The above figures may not be exact, as the editor has lost his notes on the subject, and is compelled to rely on memory, but they are near enough for all practical purposes, and offer a weighty argument in favor of the productiveness of our Pacific soil."

During last December, January and February there were .ten shocks of earthquake in various towns of China, which killed thousands of people.

THE POTATO.

Three hundred years ago this fall the first crop of the common potato, (*Solanum Tuberosum*) was harvested by civilized men, and this was done, according to a celebrated German writer, in the Royal Botanical garden at Vienna. The crop harvested that fall, (1588) amounted to about a bushel, and was distributed among the rulers of various German States, with directions for planting and cultivating. It is true that potatoes are spoken of in England at a somewhat earlier date, but other circumstances go to prove these were not the real potato; they were evidently a kind of yam. Sir Walter Raleigh, however, introduced the true potato into England about 1600, some twelve years after it had been grown in Germany. In 1610 Raleigh had the potato grown quite extensively on a plantation of his in the south of Ireland, where it proved wonderfully productive. From this plantation the potato was scattered all over Ireland, whence it went to Scotland and the continental countries adjacent, carrying with it the name which it still retains, but which really does not belong to it—Irish potato. It is a true American plant, and was wholly unknown to civilization previous to the discovery of the New World.

Then this year may be regarded as the three hundredth anniversary of the potato. Why not celebrate it? We celebrate events of much less importance. The German writer referred to is in favor of the German States joining in such a celebration. It certainly would seem that America, whose own it is, should not neglect it. We would suggest that the managers of our agricultural societies make a note of the matter, and give the potato a greater prominence in their exhibitions this fall; and we would further recommend that all our farmers put forth an extra effort for unusually good results with the potato this season. Early potatoes, of course, are already planted; but much may be done by fertilization and extra culture to improve the quality and increase the quantity of the crop. Late potatoes are still to be planted. Get extra good seed and make extra preparations for the crop, so that, should our Fair managers take the hint, and give special attention to a potato exhibit, we may make such an exhibit as will do honor to the three hundredth anniversary of so important a plant.—*The Progressive Farmer.*

SOWING MILLET.

A correspondent, M. E. W., Burgh Hill, O., asks: What is the best manner of sowing millet? When is the best time? Should it be sown every year? Can you sow other grass seed with it? How much seed per acre, and cost of seed?

Prepare the land in the best possible tilth and seed, covering about one-quarter of an inch deep. The same rule will apply to Hungarian grass, a species of millet. The crop is an annual one and the seed must be sown every year. Sow after corn planting time. From the last of May to the first of June would be indicated in your latitude. You cannot seed other grass, that is to say the ordinary hay and pasture grasses or clover, with it. Sow from three to four pecks per acre, if hay is desired. If the crop is intended for seed sow twelve to fourteen quarts per acre, to give good development of heads. If for hay cut as soon as the crop is in blossom.—*Stockman.*

SOUTHERN PROGRESS.

The progress in industrial development made by the South during the first quarter of the present year makes a very gratifying exhibit. It is detailed in the *Manufacturers' Record*, of Baltimore, and in commenting upon it that paper says:

The outlook for the manufacturing interests of the South was never more promising, and this is made especially noticeable by reason of the attention that is now being given to small diversified industries which must be at the foundation of permanent prosperity. These enterprises do not swell the aggregate investments of capital so rapidly as great furnace and coal companies, but they add vastly to the South's prosperity, and supplement the work of the furnaces and the coal mines enriching the whole South.

Basing calculations upon returns received directly by the *Manufacturers' Record*, amply authenticated and verified, and in the case of incorporated companies, compared with the official reports of the State officers, we find that during the first three months of 1888 the amount of capital, including capital stock of incorporated companies, represented by the new manufacturing and mining enterprises organized or chartered at the South, aggregates about $38,688,000. It is of course true that with many of these companies the actual cash investment is not so large as the amount of their capital stock; but there are many small manufacturing enterprises, portable saw mills, small grist mills, gineries and similar small industries, costing from a few hundred to a thousand dollars, that are not included in this list. The aggregate cost of these would be very considerable and partly, though not wholly, offset the too great capitalization of some incorporated companies. In addition to these, every manufacturing enterprise is constantly adding here and there a new piece of machinery, which in the aggregate is very great; but we take no account of that, only including cases where a mill is greatly enlarged, remodeled, or other extensive improvements made.

VENTILATION AS A HEALTH PRESERVER.

The preservation of health should be just now a matter of the greatest solicitude. Already scarlet fever, diphtheria and other prevalent rural diseases are becoming frequent and deadly. Fresh air and sunlight are indispensable to health. An investigation into the character of the moisture collected on the inside of the windows in close rooms, especially sleeping rooms, has shown that it contains organic matter, which, when burned, gives out the odor of singed hair, and after a few days it is found alive with noxious germs, which poison the air and produce disease. This moisture contains some of the most offensive wastes of the system, the insensible perspiration of the skin, which is always escaping, and the worn-out matter from the body, which is carried to the lungs by the blood and escapes in the breath are both, in many respects, as pernicious as any other waste matter and should be quite as carefully got rid of. Ventilation is indispensable at all times, and no matter how cold the weather is fresh air should be admitted. Cold is a relative sensation. Experience has shown that one feels cold in a room where the air is foul, although the temperature may be seventy degrees or more, and one suffers from chills while the blood is a fever heat. But the fresh air at a temperature far below freezing warms the blood because it contributes abundant oxygen to burn up the carbon of the food and so produce vital heat.—*New York Times.*

PEA AND BEAN WEEVIL.

Wm. S. C., Castleton, Md., asks how to keep the pea and bean weevil away.

The bean weevil, commonly called bug, is a small beetle, which lays its eggs in the green pods. The pea weevil, another species, does the same for peas. The young larvæ find their way into the young seeds, where they grow with the fruit, often destroying the meat, but do not interfere with the germ. There is no remedy for the depredation, but since the beetles do not fly far, if the seed contains no imagos there will not be infesting of the crop. Our plan to kill the imagos in the seed is to pour boiling water on the seed and pour off immediately, but the better way is to sow seed not infested.—*Stockman.*

ADVERTISING FOR LOST ARTICLES.

A word of advice, in closing, to those who have been unfortunate enough to lose jewels. Never offer "a suitable reward;" never say "that the finder will be liberally rewarded." In such cases the cost of advertising is usually added to the loss of the jewel. State the exact amount of the reward, and let it be liberal enough to insure the return of the lost article.—*George T. Kunz.*

An exchange says: De Lesseps no longer carries everything before him in France for his schemes for grand improvements. His proposal for a lottery loan in aid of the Panama Canal is favored only by one-half the Committee of Deputies to which it was referred. In the existing excitements of French politics his chances of obtaining favorable legislative action are not great—at least so long as Carnot remains at the head of the Government.

WHITEWASH.

The season of whitewashing is at hand. Indeed, it is always at hand, for the frequent application of lime is beneficial to the fowls and makes the houses attractive. There is no danger of overdoing the work, although it is not absolutely necessary to keep the whitewash brush going at all times.

So far as sanitary reasons are concerned, good lime and water are all-sufficient, but such whitewash has an inconvenient faculty of coming off and leaving its mark upon the clothing. It seems to prefer to stick to the clothes rather than to the walls. We, therefore, give a few good recipes for preparing whitewash which will not so easily rub off.

1st. Slack in boiling water one-half bushel of lime, keeping it just fairly covered with water during the process. Strain it, to remove the sediment that will fall to the bottom, and add to it a peck of salt dissolved in warm water; three pounds of ground rice boiled in water to a thin paste; one-half pound powdered Spanish whiting, and a pound of clear glue dissolved in warm water. Mix the different ingredients thoroughly and let the mixture stand for several days. When ready to use, apply it hot. If a less quantity is desired, use the same proportions.

2d. A good whitewash for use upon outside work may be prepared as follows: Slack in boiling water one-half bushel of lime and strain as before. Add to this two pounds of sulphate of zinc and one pound of salt dissolved in water. If any color but white is desired, add about three pounds of the desired cloring matter, such as painters use in preparing their paints. Yellow ochre will make a beautiful cream color, and browns, reds, and various shades of green are equally easily obtained.

3d. Another excellent wash, lasting almost as well as ordinary paint, may be prepared for outside work as fol lows: Slack in boiling water one-half bushel of lime. Strain so as to remove all sediment. Add two pounds sulphate of zinc, one pound common salt, and one-half pound whiting, thoroughly dissolved. Mix to proper consistency with skimmed milk and apply hot. If white is not desired, add enough coloring matter to produce the desired shade. Those who have tried this recipe consider it much superior, both in appearance and durability, to ordinary washes, and some have not hesitated to declare that it compares very favorably with good lead paints. It is much cheaper than paint and gives the houses and yards to which it is applied a very attractive appearance. —*The American Poultry Yard.*

HOW TO RAISE COLTS.

A breeder of fine horses communicates to *Turf, Field ond Farm* his plan for raising fine colts, that is worthy of being followed:

The brood mare, after foaling, is fed liberally on grain. When the flies are bad she is sheltered during the heat of the day and is given the range of succulent pastures at night When the air is chilly she is housed at night and is turned out during the day. Each mare is put in a box at feeding time so that she may enjoy her oats in peace. If the grain is put into troughs out in the pasture there will be seriovs scrammages for it. In every band there are two or three mares which want to rule, and at feeding time they rush from trough to trough and keep everything in a frement. The grain is hastily swallowed and there is danger of the colts getting injured by kicks. The foal will begin eating grain when two weeks old, and if the mother is fed in a quiet place the baby will have more inclination as well as time to nose in the trough itself. At five months old the foal is weaned and it goes for the winter into a sunny and sheltered yard used exclusively for weanlings. At night two colts occupy one box, and during the day the whole band enjoys the bright and bracing weather. Each is fed oats in a separate box and is given plenty of good hay, and gathering in a band for exercise promotes cheerfulness and aids digestion. All this requires thought and attention, but it pays in the long run.

A Chicago clothing manufacturer says that he is obliged to pay particu lar attention to the hip pockets which he puts in trousers destined for the Western trade. His Kansas and Iowa customers demand a pocket capable of holding a quart flask, but for the far West trade the pocket is made deep and narrow, with an unusually strong lining, so that a pistol will fit snugly in it.